

Performance-based Standards

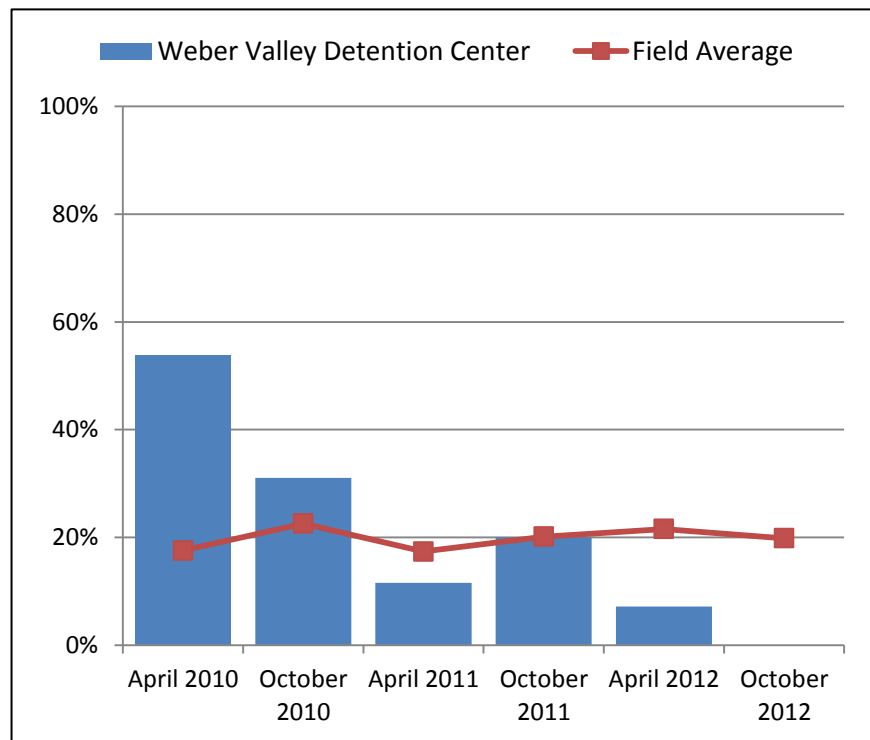
In April 2010, at the Weber Valley Detention Center (WVDT), located in Roy, Utah, 25% of the detained youth reported they feared for their safety while in the detention center. At the same time, 54% of the staff at WVDT reported they also feared for their safety while working at the detention center. Two years later the data substantially changed. Of the youth detained at WVDT 10% reported they feared for their safety, and 0% of the staff reported they feared for their safety.

This data surrounding youth and staff safety at WVDT, and subsequent improvements in feeling safe, are the results of the Division's use of Performance-based Standards (PbS). Select facilities across the nation are honored by the PbS Learning Institute (a non-profit, nationally-recognized improvement program developed by the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators) for successful implementation of PbS. Winners are chosen annually for the facility that best exemplifies the PbS underlying principle of providing safe environments conducive to learning and changing behavior. In 2012, WVDT was recognized with this award.

The data collected regarding youth and staff safety are only two of over a hundred outcome measures collected, calculated by PbS and reported back to individual facility staff and administration with the purpose of improving the conditions, services and overall operations of juvenile facilities. These efforts help promote public safety, youth accountability and rehabilitation that prevents future crime. PbS is consistent with national standards for juvenile justice facilities and focuses on the areas of safety, security, order, physical and mental health, justice and legal rights, programming, and reintegration planning.

Benefits of PbS to youth include improved facility services, relationships with staff, and conditions of confinement. Division benefits include the ability to identify training areas for staff, data-driven evaluations of service quality for each facility, and the identification of gaps in policy and practices.

Currently, PbS is operating in 162 facilities across 29 states and the District of Colombia. In 2010, two of the Division's facilities joined with PbS to introduce it to the Division as a proof of concept. Due to the



Percent of staff who report they feared for their safety.

benefits, the use of PbS was expanded in 2011, and again in the Fall of 2012, to include 14 secure and locked detention facilities in both urban and rural settings. To learn more about PbS, visit their website www.pbstandards.org



PbS Executive Director, Kim Godfrey and Coach Akin Fadeyi along with Mark Osenbach from Weber Valley Detention Center and Susan Burke, DJJS Director.